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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO HISTORICALLY RE-ENACT 2013 SESSION

Artists Charlie Russell, Edgar Paxson, and Ralph DeCamp were in the House Chamber as legislators celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the first session held there with the assistance of the MHS staff and collections..

House members held a special historical, one hour re-enactment from the 1913 session including honoring three famous Montana artists for the artwork they created for the Capitol.

The Chamber was decorated to reflect what it looked like 100 years ago, and the House staff with help from MHS developed a script based on the issues that were being discussed at that time. Those on the floor were dressed in clothing appropriate to the era.

Persons dressed and recreating the parts of Russell, Paxson and DeCamp, whose work still adorns the Capitol including Russell's masterpiece "Lewis and Clark Meeting the Indians at Ross' Hole," were part of the event.

The new wings of the Capitol were built in 1911 and 1912 and finished for the 1913 session. The Senate passed a resolution in 1913 thanking the three artists for their work in making the Capitol not only beautiful but also reflecting the pride Montanans had in their state and their culture.

The Montana Historical Society had a booth and display in the House Lobby just off the House floor with information on what were then the new additions to the Capitol, historic photographs and other historic documents from the period. MHS Government Archivist Jeff Malcomson was on hand at the booth in the character and dressed as Gov. Sam Stewart, who was governor in 1913.

MHS staff will had guided tours of the DeCamp artwork in the Capitol and Paxson's artwork on exhibit at the MHS Museum.